



**Frederick County
Government
Frederick, Maryland**

News Release

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE GARDNER LAUNCHES “SENIORS FIRST” INITIATIVE

FREDERICK, MD – Taking steps to make Frederick County more senior-friendly, County Executive Jan Gardner today announced an initiative to connect services with seniors and plan for a rapidly growing senior population. She also appointed members to a newly created Seniors First steering committee that will take advantage of the opportunities and challenges of this growing segment of the county.

The number of people aged 65 and older is expected to grow at twice the rate in the county than it will nationally, and double the pace of the rest of Maryland.

Executive Gardner commented, “One of my key priorities as the first county executive is to help our seniors realize their potential, stay in the comfort of their homes as they mature and continue to contribute to our community in meaningful ways. I plan to help meet the growing needs of our seniors and utilize volunteers to meet the needs of the elderly.

“My newly appointed Seniors First team is a group of professionals and advocates who I am confident will do a great job working for the best interests of our seniors. The group is comprised of a new non-profit senior advocacy group, members of the Commission on Aging and people with expertise serving seniors.”

Executive Gardner also reviewed the progress made since she took office last December to connect seniors to support services, including: expansion of the Meals on Wheels program to Jefferson, Lewistown and Middletown, so that no senior in Frederick County should have to go hungry; work by the Maryland Access Point program that helps seniors find long-term support; progress in the Health Department Adult Evaluation and Review Services program that helps seniors age in their homes; creation of a Taxi Access Program for TransIT-plus customers; and continuation of the fight to protect seniors at the Citizens-Montevue facility.

(more)

Executive Gardner also welcomed the return of the [Retired Senior Volunteer Program](#) (RSVP) under the auspices of the Asian American Center. She commended the center's Executive Director Elizabeth Chung and Director Carol Haag for their plan to work toward ensuring a bright future for seniors in the county.

RSVP of Frederick County supports volunteer organizations by recruiting and matching older volunteers to meet the particular needs of each agency. The skills, interests and life experiences of volunteers are matched with opportunities offered within the non-profit community and various government agencies. Volunteers are able to select their assignments and determine their hours of service.

“I welcome the return of the RSVP program to Frederick County to utilize the life interests and skills of our seniors to make a difference in our county,” Executive Gardner added.

For more information on Seniors First, contact Special Administrative Director Margaret Nusbaum at 301-600-7700 or via e-mail at mnusbaum@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

To volunteer or find out more about RSVP Frederick, call 301-600-7900 or connect via e-mail at rsvp@acfmd.org.

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